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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/349,194 | 07/07/1999 | KENNETH F. BUECHLER | 244/121 | 6285 |
| 23620 | 7590 | 03/25/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| FOLEY & LARDNER 402 WEST BROADWAY 23RD FLOOR SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 | | | GABEL, GAIENE | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1641 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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032204

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Commissioner for Patents

Reply Brief Noted

1. The reply brief filed 1/16/04 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gailene R. Gabel whose telephone number is (571) 272-0820. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 5:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long V. Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gailene R. Gabel

Application/Control Number: 09/349,194
Art Unit: 1641

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Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1641
March 22, 2004

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Christopher L. Chin

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GROUP 1800-1641